

"Have you any special religious interest in your church?" I asked Moses.

"No room for any interest," he replied. "De church is so lumbered up wid fairs and festibals, and jollifications, dat de Sperit's got no chance to work among us. Leastwise dats my solemn 'pinion, dough some says I's heady and setful. But I's sick of it sah! I goes to church Sunday, and de fust thing de minister gets up and reads a long program of de worldly doin's and goins' for de week—de music and de supper, and de gramatic readings, and what not—twenty-five cents admission, and all must come. I tell ye, I kicks agin it, sah, and will, long's I hab bref in my body."

"What do you mean by saying you kick against it?" I asked.

"I rebukes it, sah, in de name of Lord. Last Sunday I spoke out in meetin' and said, 'Breddern, what's you been redeemed for, and brought into de church? Didn't de Lord tell you's to be de light of de world and de salt of de earth? Well when I sees how much time some of you gibs to fairs and festibals, and den you can't come to de prayer meeting 'cause you's so busy,' I says, 'If you ever was de Lord's true salt, you've lost your flavor; and if you don't look out, you'll be cast out and trodden under foot of men.'"

"But, brother Moses," I asked, wishing to draw out further wisdom from this deep fountain, "don't you think these things necessary for making the church attractive to the masses, and inviting to the young?"

"No sah," he replied, with great warmth. "No sah: Christians is de salt of de world, and dey is put into de world to preserve it from corruption. But some's got de idee dat you must bring de corruption into de church so's to preserve de salt, as dough de Gospel is going to die out unless it's sugared and seasoned wid carnal 'musements. Dat's de pop'lar notion. But I kicks agin it sah."

"Yes, but people say there is no harm in a social gathering and a plain supper, and a little music and reading for entertaining the people," I continued.

"Well, dat's de question," replied Moses. "I takes de Scriptures for my standpoint of faith and practice, and I have searched in vain to find where de 'postels and elders ever got up suppers of turkey, and chickens, and sandwiches, and cold tongue, and den invited de breddern to come to church and eat 'em up at twenty-five cents a head. No, brudder, 'musements in de church is unsanctifying, howsomever folks may think about it."

"We had a festival in our meeting-house two weeks back. I looks in a few minutes, and sees de crowd dere and de doin's. Fust de pianny and de fiddle strikes up, and den all de young folks' feet begin to shuffle and scrape under de seat, like de unthinkin' horse rushin' into battle. And, sez I, 'Take off de 'straint and how long 'fore dis whole company'd be a dancin' and a waltzin' in the house of God?'"

"Den dey had de guess cake, and de waffles, and waffled off a calico quilt to de one

dat drew de prize; and sez I, 'What's dis but eddicating people to gamblin' and lotteries?' Den de gramatic reader come on, all dressed up wid ribbons and furbelows, and when I seed her rolling her eyes and pinting her fingers, sez I agin, 'What's dis but just nussin' our young uns for de stage and de theater?' I tell you, I kicks agin it, sah, and allers shall."

"Well, next night was prayer meeting; only twenty out an all as mum as if de Lord had never opened their mouths; and when I warns 'em about it dey says, 'Brudder Moses de Spirit didn't move us.' I's prayin' about it night and day. It's cause de Lord's children don't think, dey does so. You remember how he says, 'My people consider.'"

Reader, Moses is a real character and not a myth. He was born in slavery, and if he is able to read, it is only a recent acquirement. But his mind is saturated with the scripture as he caught its phraseology from the rude preachers of his race. May it not be that he is one of the 'babes' to whom the Father has revealed some things which he has hid "from the wise and prudent?"

## Church News

Conemaugh, Pa.

Our spring communion is now a thing of the past. It was soul inspiring and refreshing. The attendance was, for this place, fairly good from the fact that our male members generally work on the railroad and in the Cambria mills and they are in and out on the railroad and work different turns in the mills. Hence our per cent is not as good as possibly in some other congregations, but we had an excellent meeting. We usually have three or four nights' meeting prior to our love feasts and this time we had two accessions during these few meetings; one by baptism and one by confirmation. The one by baptism was brother Johnny Neilson, oldest son of Brother Neilson. Johnny said he wanted to go where his mamma was, and just before we closed the communion services an invitation was given and two precious souls came out on the Lord's side. One was a man who is the head of a family and the other a young lady. The man I think was born in Ireland and has for sometime been a member of the Lutheran church. He lives fifteen or twenty miles from here. I have only known him about fifteen days; came here to attend the funeral of Sister Neilson, and if a man comes around here he gets plain gospel. He was invited to attend our communion. It was something very new to him and he came here, attended church Saturday evening and Sunday morning and at the communion we placed him where he could see well, for that was what he came for, to learn and being fully convinced in his mind when the invitation was given, he willingly accepted. Baptism Tuesday next. So we received a double blessing, a communion and four converts. Praise the Lord.

The church at this place has recently

been clouded with sorrow caused by three deaths. On May 15, '98, we had two funerals. In the morning we laid to rest brother Daniel Stump's little boy Carrol, aged two years and a few months, who wandered away from home down near the river to a pool of water and fell in and drowned. This was very sad indeed. Carrol was a bright and active boy. His mother found him first. His funeral took place in the Brethren church by the writer from Luke 8:52. In the afternoon we laid to rest sister Janet Neilson, wife of our dear Brother Neilson who with his wife and daughter Maggie joined the Brethren church about eight months ago. He had preached for the Baptist church for a number of years. Sister Neilson was at one time a missionary for the Presbyterian church in Scotland. Sister Neilson was born at Greenend, Lanarkshire, Scotland, December 10, 1861, died May 13, 1898, aged 36 years, 5 months, 3 days. Just a few days before she died she desired so much to get well until our spring love feast which took place on May 22, '98. Sister Neilson made friends wherever she went, both in and out of the church. The church has lost a faithful member. She attended church regularly and just as long as she possibly could. She was a devoted wife, a consistent Christian, and was loved and esteemed by those who knew her. She leaves a husband and five children. The funeral services were conducted by the writer from Jer. 15:9, "Her sun is gone down while it was yet day," to a crowded house. On the following Thursday, May 19, '98, we laid away sister Agnes Spots, aged 29 years, 10 months, 9 days. Sister Spots was the first one to make application for membership in the Brethren church at our revival here one year ago last November when we had fifty-six accessions. Sister Spots was a devoted wife, a consistent Christian, and faithful to the cause she espoused. She leaves a husband and four little children. The church will miss her. Her funeral took place at the Brethren church in the presence of a large crowd. Her funeral services were conducted by the writer from James 4:14, "For what is your life."

Such is life, but our loss is their gain. Peace to their ashes.

J. F. KOONTZ.

Notes From Zed H. Copp.

MIAMISBURG, OHIO

At a called meeting of this congregation, after the regular preaching service Sunday, 22nd, sisters Lydia Fox and Pearl Hoole were elected delegates to the State conference.

A live Young People's Society has been organized which will doubtless prove helpful and encouraging to both pastor and people.

These brethren are faithful in their attendance upon church service and zealous of every good work. We are glad that our lot has been cast with them and hope that our association may be mutually beneficial. May